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# BREEZE HILL NEWS

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*Tulipa Fosteriana, Princeps*



# Breeze Hill News

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The purpose of Breeze Hill News is to demonstrate how its publishers are prepared to serve the horticultural trade by growing, testing, blooming, photographing, and faithfully recording a large and changing succession of roses, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees at Breeze Hill Gardens. Those records, those pictures, and the suggestive knowledge upon which recommendations can be made, are put back of the horticultural selling service of the Mount Pleasant Press by intelligent writing, illustrating, and printing, both in black and in color.



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On request to Box 687, Harrisburg, Pa., the current Breeze Hill Finding-List, which gives an idea of the scope of the plant-trials undertaken at any particular time, will be provided.





*Border of Darwin Tulips, Wm. Copland in foreground*



*Tulipa Fosteriana, Red Emperor*



BEGINNING last fall certain of the more progressive Holland bulb-growers, acting through Mr. Charles Van der Mey, sent us 273 varieties of Tulips for testing, on an agreed-upon plan of planting. Most of these were new varieties, some being not yet in commerce, and a few so rare that we are expected to return the bulbs to Holland for further increase. The idea was to get an unbiased report on the value of the new varieties, to try out our scheme of background planting, and to check the color descriptions, the latter being quite necessary because of the difference in color of many varieties as grown in the Holland bulb-fields and under ordinary garden culture in this country.

## *The Species Tulips*

Partly because they bloomed first, and partly because of their sheer beauty, the Species Tulips and their hybrids created the greatest enthusiasm. In fact, it is easy to believe that some of the Species hybrids are the finest of all the Tulip family.

The lovely little *Tulipa Kaufmanniana* bloomed in the rockery on March 30, closely followed by its new varieties, Elliott Rose and Elliott Red. These were about twice the size of the Species, Rose being marked with deep rose on the outside, and Red, with dull red marking. They are about 12 inches tall, and uniquely attractive.

Following these, on April 20, came the largest of all Tulips, *T. Fosteriana*, *Red Emperor*, also called Mme. Lefebvre. These great flowers were 9½ inches in diameter when open and the most brilliant scarlet—they simply burned a hole in the background when viewed from a hundred feet away. *Red Emperor* is supposed to be tall but our plants were low.

Of the same burning scarlet, but somewhat smaller in size, was *T. Fosteriana*, *Princeps*, of which, on April 21, a dozen bulbs made a scorching clump. *T. Fosteriana*, *Big Boss*, bloomed April 27, and looked more like a Cottage Tulip, having sharply pointed scarlet-red petals, 3 inches in length.

Another lovely species is *T. Eichleri*, of crimson-scarlet, with a lily type of flower about 18 inches in height.

Then came *T. Greigi*, with 6-inch flowers of orange-scarlet, held 18 inches high. At first glance it resembled the other scarlet species, but its broad, pale green leaves are closely marked with purplish brown spots of irregular shape. These markings are not at all bizarre and really add to the attractive flower.

All of these scarlet varieties have black centers, edged with golden orange, and black anthers.

The average garden may not need all of these, but anyone seeing these species for the first time will have hard work restraining a desire for them.

## *The Mendel Tulips*

There were 14 varieties of the Mendel Tulips, all of them interesting, and a half-dozen really outstanding. They began blooming April 22 and finished May 9.

To me the finest of the group was First Rate. Its cupped flowers are of excellent form, on stems a little better than medium height, and unusually uniform. The brilliant fiery vermilion-red color lasted for ten days without fading, and showed a yellow center with brownish anthers.

Red Cross had larger flowers, quite nice but not perfect in form, of clear carmine-red which lasted well. It was not as uniform in growth as First Rate, but both are important.

Probably the next in value was Dodonæus, a low-growing variety with large, cup-shaped flowers of mahogany or rich brownish garnet, the edges slightly feathered with orange. The deep yellow cup showed black anthers. This distinct variety was very uniform in height and had the richest colors I have ever seen in a Tulip.

A delightful light-colored variety is Weber. It is a little better than average height and of very uniform growth, with large cups of white, tinged and etched with rose—a dainty combination of hues.





*The Triumphs and Mendels*

The tallest Mendel is Zenith, with very large flowers of narrow, cupped form, satiny rose in color, and each petal marked with a white line down the center. The color fades quite rapidly, and for that reason did not appeal to me, though, undoubtedly, it is a valuable Tulip.

Queen Augusta is a low-growing variety with perfectly formed, narrow cups of clean mauve-pink—about as clear a shade as any in the planting. The centers are white, and the small anthers deep violet. All the blooms were of a uniform height, and the color held without fading during the life of the flower.

## *The Triumph Tulips*

We had 19 varieties of Triumph Tulips. These are, apparently, early-blooming Darwins, as most of them were purely Darwin in appearance. Seven of this group were checked as being top-notch. The first flowers opened on April 26 and the last blooms were cut on May 11.

Chicago was an enormous, perfectly formed, cupped flower of shining carmine-red—a most brilliant Tulip. Its lovely color lasted as long as the flower. There was an indication that sometime this might sport into a very desirable Parrot, as some of the flowers had a little of the bronze and green marking found on the outside of the Parrot petals. The bottom of the cup was a deep green, with black anthers. Its growth was little better than medium, and the flowers fairly uniform in height. Chicago was the largest Tulip of the Triumph planting, and, to me, is extra good.

Pictor was a delightful long-lasting variety, described by the introducers as carmine-red, with a golden yellow base. At Breeze Hill it was a rich shade of burnt-orange, each petal divided with an orange stripe, and a large, deep yellow base surrounded the straw-colored anthers. It was a beautifully shaped Tulip, being rather narrow and quite straight in form, the three outer petals flaring slightly at the edges. The color and form lasted during almost the entire life of the flower. Its growth was fairly tall and very uniform, all the flowers being of practically the same height. We rated it as very fine.

Tuban was the first of its family to bloom. Its flowers were large, widely cupped, deep cherry-red, etched white, above a large white center, with black anthers. The fact that the color held so well, and that the flowers were of absolutely uniform growth, added to its value. Its height was a little under medium.

Mr. Zimmerman was another Tulip which opened fairly early. Its tall, narrow, silvery white blooms were marked and etched with fuchsia-red. The coloring was so clear and

lasted so well that we liked it very much. The lower half of the inside of the flower was the same silvery white as the outside, with rich yellow anthers.

There were two deeply colored Triumph Tulips: Von Hindenburg was of medium height, very uniform in growth, with medium-sized deep blood-red flowers, almost garnet, having white edges, above a blue and white center, with deep violet anthers. It faded very little during the entire time it was in bloom. The other one, Tosca, was the same height and also very uniform, but the flowers were almost twice as large. Its Holland introducers described its color as purplish but to us it was a deep garnet with a slight purplish tinge down the middle of the outside of the petals. It also had quite prominent feathery white markings on the edges of the petals. The cup was white, edged with blue, and the anthers black. Tosca also held its color well, and we rated it as exceedingly fine.

A real gem among the white Tulips was Kansas. The flowers were of medium height, absolutely uniform in growth, long and graceful. They opened ivory-white and matured almost pure white, with a light yellowish tinge to the center cup, and yellow anthers. This Tulip retained its lovely slender form until the petals fell.

Eros, a very double flower in this group, looked more like a peony than a Tulip. The color was old-rose, with a slight silvery tint toward the edges and the blooms were 6 inches in diameter when open.

The visitors were really enthusiastic about Eros. It was the only double Tulip in the gardens to excite comment, and we believe it will be successful.

The Triumph Tulips appear to be of considerable value, blooming, as they do, between the Early Singles and the Cottage. There is a space of a few days at this time which these Tulips fill admirably, giving the large, beautifully formed, Darwin-like flowers, on their tall stems, quite a few days before any of the regular Darwins appear.





*Lovely Fantasy as a border picture*

## *The Newer Parrot Tulips*

There has been a great improvement in the Parrot Tulips in the last few years, and some of the new sorts sent us to try this year were simply gorgeous.

In addition to a large clump of the well-known Fantasy, there was a new striped Fantasy called Capriccio, which is not half as beautiful a flower as its parent. The blooms are not quite so large, the petals not so deeply cut, and the white markings which distinguish it from Fantasy give it a rather bizarre appearance.

Two excellent reds included Red Champion, whose deeply cut petals of cochineal-carmine had a spread of 7 inches. Its color was practically pure, there being very little of the typical Parrot green and bronze markings on the backs of the petals. The edges were slightly lighter, and the base of the petals had a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch white spot edged with light blue. This sort bloomed a few days earlier than Therese, a somewhat larger flower of practically the same shade of red, although the originator described it as cochineal-carmine. (Possibly it did have a little carmine in it!) Our flowers averaged over 8 inches in diameter, with petals not quite so deeply cut as Red Champion, and carried the green and bronze Parrot markings on the reverse. When the petals were spread out in the fully developed flower, the form was almost square. It also had a white center with a blue tint at the edges.

Opal Queen, a soft purplish lavender with very deeply cut petals, giving it a particularly distinct feathery appearance, was very beautiful. Its petals were strongly marked with bronzy green on the backs. The white markings in the center of this were much larger than on any of the other Parrots, and most visitors considered it the most beautiful of the lot.

We had one or two bulbs of Sunshine, a golden yellow, and Gadelan, a violet, but the bulbs were poor and the flowers did not open well, so were not considered, although our Holland friends claim that these two are the finest Parrot Tulips yet introduced. Better bulbs next year may surprise us.

## *Breeder and the Broken Tulips*

In the Breeder class there have been many brighter colors added in the last few years, and this family can no longer be considered as including only soft, smoky shades. One of the loveliest, new to our garden this year, was Victor, a large and beautifully formed flower of deep burnt-orange with light orange edges and a deep orange cup. The flowers were held a little higher than the average tall varieties and retained their form and color as long as any Tulip in the garden.

Feu Ardent, an old friend, was entrancing in its rich brownish scarlet tints, and is a nicely formed Tulip on wonderfully straight, strong stems.

Dillenburg, while not quite so tall as the previous two, was a very refreshing mixture of pale tan and reddish orange. The flowers retained their egg-shaped form a long time, and the delightful coloring persisted.

Panorama is just as good today as when we first saw it several years ago; the great big flowers of a rich chestnut-red color have not been surpassed. Two varieties about which we were quite keen were Prince Albert, a flaring type flower of mahogany-brown, and Prince of Wales, a globular bloom of deep purplish maroon, both on very long stems, those of Prince Albert rigidly straight, while those of Prince of Wales were somewhat crooked.

A low-growing variety, probably 20 inches tall, but of very beautiful coloring, was Leonard Barron. The straight, cup-shaped flowers were deep orange, with a carmine flush, both on the inside and outside of the petals. This was very uniform in growth, almost every flower being of the same height and held very rigid. We think Leonard Barron is a very fine Tulip.

Southern Cross is considered one of the best of the yellow Breeders. The large, cup-shaped flower was a peculiar shade of light yellow, with pale violet flushes on the outside of the petals. Our strongest criticism was that the 30-inch stems were quite badly bent. Tantalus, an egg-



shaped flower of dull yellow, flushed pale purple, was really a good Breeder. It was better than medium height, with very strong stems.

In the so-called blues, Corinna, bluish purple, and Nep-tunus, a light reddish purple, were both very good, the first being the taller, and both retaining their coloring during the life of the flower. However, there was something about them which kept us from scoring them among the highest. Mrs. Beecher Stowe was rather low for a Breeder, with globular flowers of clear violet. Although not quite up to the height we would like to see, all the flowers were of uniform growth, and it was quite well liked. A distinct flower in these purplish shades was Velvet King, a bright dark reddish purple with triangular flowers which open wide the first day, showing their quite large white base. The color of this was so clean, so intense, and lasted so well that one could not help liking it.

Two varieties which certainly do not belong among the Breeders were Pink Pearl and Perle Royale, both with a white ground and purplish pink flushings and markings. With Pink Pearl in the Darwins and Perle Royale in the Cottage, they might have been considered, but among the Breeders they were certainly out of place.

The "broken Tulips" always attract visitors, for while they come to us as Rembrandts, Bybloems, and Bizarres, to the writer they are all "broken Tulips." There used to be a reason for putting these in different classes, but it seems to me that the rules are not followed—today they are all shades and colors.

A striking variety in the Rembrandts is Rubella, a light crimson on a white ground. The flaring, short-petaled flowers have a blue base and are spectacular without a question.

In the Bybloems the most interesting variety to the writer, and the one which attracted all visitors, was Zebra, truly well named. Its color was purplish brown on a yellow base, so finely striped and marked that one instantly thought of the African wild animal when seeing this for the first time.

Other interesting varieties were Flamboyante, light purple on a white ground, and Violet Superbe, clear violet on white. These were both quite picturesque.



*Bybloems and Bizarres as cut-flowers*

In the Bizarre Tulips, Gellert, a slaty purple on a yellow ground, had more yellow than most. So far, these have all had egg-shaped flowers, but Laburnum, somewhat taller than the rest of the group, and with open, flaring blooms, was purplish brown on a brownish yellow ground. It was quite striking on account of its height. The center was very much the same color as the rest of the flower.

## *The Cottage Tulips*

More than 50 of the Cottage Tulip sorts were in the lot sent to us for testing. An unusually large number of them seem to be top-notchers. They began to open April 27.

In the salmon and pink tones, *Eclatant* immediately attracted attention. Its flowers were of good size, formed much like a narrow, graceful *Darwin*. The color was rich orange-salmon, with a reddish tint on the outside of the petals, which had a yellow base, with a feather edge of blue, and gray anthers. It was tall and very uniform in growth.

*Marcellina*, a beautiful, carmine-rose, lily-flowered variety, was the first to open, and held its pure, clear color to the end. The center showed a white base and extra-long yellow anthers.

Probably the tallest of the group was *Delicious*. The Holland description called it carmine-rose, but it was a much deeper shade than *Marcellina*, and long lasting. Its petals were very long, and the form narrow and graceful.

A very striking variety, which seemed as if it ought to be with the *Rembrandts* or *Bizarres*, was called *Red and Silver*. The large flowers of brilliant flame and pale yellow were shaped more like a *Breeder*, and really looked out of place. They had yellow centers, with yellow anthers. The growth was about medium and unusually uniform. In spite of the excessive heat, this variety kept in perfect condition for over two weeks, the yellow disappearing, and the flame darkening to deep red. It seems important.

*Elegans Alba* was probably the loveliest of all the Cottages. Its beautiful, lily-shaped flowers were perfectly formed, ivory-white, edged with red, with centers pale fawn, and straw-colored anthers. In height, it was a little under average, but all the flowers were held at the same altitude.

*Vesta*, a very tall variety for a Cottage, had long, slender flowers in gleaming silvery white, with gray anthers.

Another lovely lily-flowered Tulip was *Mercedes*—deep primrose-yellow, self-colored throughout, the three outer petals twisted in an odd way, and the anthers corn-colored.



Mongolia was a quite large, Darwin-shaped flower of deep yellow. It was of fine form and retained its color well. The cups were marked with small green blotches and the anthers were black. A quite tall, uniform variety.

A most graceful Tulip was Mrs. John T. Scheepers. The flowers were unusually long and narrow, and this lovely form was retained during the life of the flower. In color it was very much the same as Mongolia—a clear yellow—but with a slightly darker cup and pale straw-colored anthers.

Another enchanting yellow was Wall Street. It was of the flaring type, with the three outer petals bending slightly back. The clear yellow flowers were of good size, and the three outer petals and the backs of the petals were lighter, and almost white down the centers. The self-colored cup had straw-colored anthers. This variety was quite tall, but not as uniform as some of the others.

Two freaky-looking varieties, quite striking, were Sunlight and Columbine. Both were lily-flowered, the former deep yellow, with feathery markings of light red, and the latter, a deep, hard yellow with a narrow garnet stripe down the middle of each petal.

One of the finest in this group was Refulgence, of uniform, tall growth, and of a lovely shade of orange-scarlet. The long, narrow flowers showed petals bending in slightly at the top, making a close, long, deep cup. The yellow base was marked with purplish edges and straw-colored anthers.

Scarlet Emperor and Scarlet Glory were two dazzling varieties of different shades of scarlet. The narrow petals of Scarlet Emperor opened more like a lily-flowered Tulip, and were marked by orange bases and black anthers. Scarlet Glory had petals of more rounded shape, with a little more red in the scarlet. The base was straw-colored, the anthers gray. Both of these were a little better than medium in height, and are very fine varieties.

Mayflower, the largest Tulip in the group, was quite tall in growth, and very uniform. The introducers described it as light scarlet. To us it was a lovely old-rose, with a hint of a scarlet flush. The great open cups had indigo centers.



*The low-growing Glare of the Garden*

Henri Correvon was fine with its open cup of brilliant geranium-lake, a white base, and yellow anthers. Of medium height and very uniform growth, it was a very delightful variety.

Batavus, of somewhat the same shade, was slightly taller, and perhaps with a little more cochineal color. Generally the same form and size as Henri Correvon, it would be hard to choose between the two varieties.

Very beautiful and different was Queen of the North. The base of the petals is creamy white, with the same color inside on the upper parts of the petals, and on the edges a lovely tint of clear pink. Its large, creamy white center was enlivened with long, narrow yellow anthers. The peachy coloring of this variety was very exciting. Its growth was about medium and quite uniform.

A very interesting variety which could hardly be better named is called Glare of the Garden. The long, slender

flowers have something of the lily form, although the petals are not very pointed. Its color is a brilliant cochineal-red, with a black and orange base, and violet anthers. Only about a foot tall, it will make an excellent rockery Tulip, or serve admirably for the edge of the border.

Gala Beauty, a striking novelty in this family, had small, lily-shaped flowers of golden yellow, striped and etched with hard markings of deep carmine, and a golden yellow base with straw-colored anthers. It lasted in perfect condition for two weeks.

## *The Darwin Tulips*

Of the Darwins we had a very excellent collection of some unusually fine things. Among the reds we considered Eclipse best in the dark shades; it had a large, cupped flower of crimson-maroon—a color that really glowed—and the base was rich violet-blue, with black anthers. Growth was quite tall. We have little fault to find with the variety.

City of Haarlem, another old friend, is probably yet the best of the bright red Tulips, with its large flower of brilliant red, violet base edged white, and near-violet anthers. The tall growth was quite uniform. Campfire and Rev. H. H. d'Ombrain, of quite similar coloring, were good, but not quite so tall nor so uniform in growth. Campfire had the largest flowers. All of these Tulips carry the lovely violet-blue centers.

The test included some ten varieties of about the same shade of deep cerise-rose, with lighter edges. The flowers were quite large, egg-shaped, about the only difference being the variation in the light coloring of the edges. We considered Grullemans' Giant, Rotha, and Avanti the best of this group. Grullemans' Giant has a deep violet center, Rotha a white center, edged violet, and Avanti a pale blue center.

Other good varieties in this same shade were Ascot, Rosamunde, Welcome, Gazelle, Rose de May, and Astra. The originators describe these all the way from lilac-rose to magenta. Of somewhat similar coloring, but of a lighter shade, are Princess Mary, Cordova, Darlington, Pink



Delight, Dedan, and Mont Rosa. While the Hollanders describe these as lilac, vivid rose, rose, and cerise, to us they were simply rose, with lighter edges. Most of them had white centers, but Darlington, which we considered the best, had a blue and white center. Its growth is quite tall, and the egg-shaped flowers of fine substance have an excellent form which is retained a long time. Princess Mary has the lightest edges of the lot, and is also quite nice.

Burgomaster de Vlucht was the finest of the clear pinks, and might be described as an improved Clara Butt. The lovely pink flowers are of fine egg shape, holding this nice form for a long time. The base is white and the anthers are deep violet. It is tall and very uniform in growth, with good stems and clean foliage.

A number of varieties are described as blue, rosy lilac, and the like—to us they are light violet. Gloriosa, Lavanda, and Blue Gem were quite the best of the color. Gloriosa is a tall flower of large, cupped form, with a white base and black anthers, on very heavy stems, with good clean foliage; the growth is very uniform. Lavanda was very similar in size of flower and shape, and also had a white center with violet anthers. Flowers were all the same size, on good strong stems; the good foliage was not quite so wide as the preceding. Blue Gem had flowers a little more egg-shaped and of slightly lighter tint. Growth is tall, very uniform, and the stems heavy and very straight; normal foliage.

Of the darker shades, such varieties as Black Eagle, President Garfield, Jubilee, Vivid, and Frans Hals all belong in the purple class. Black Eagle, an enormous cupped flower of deep purple with blue center and violet anthers, is one of the finest. It is medium tall, with slender, upright stems. President Garfield, just a shade lighter, with smaller egg-shaped flowers, yellow centers, and violet anthers, was very nice. Stems of this were a little stronger than Black Eagle and it was 2 to 3 inches taller. Foliage of both of these varieties was very good. A few days earlier to bloom was Vivid, with extra-heavy stems and cupped flowers of a slightly lighter shade which could be termed violet-purple. Its center was light blue.

Of the popular so-called pale blues, which are really shades of mauve, Mrs. Harold Irving Pratt seemed to be the top-notch variety, although King Mauve was not far behind. Mrs. Pratt is vinous mauve, paling to almost white around the edges. The very large, egg-shaped flowers have yellow centers and small violet anthers. Stems are very heavy and of medium height. This flower lasted a long time. The flower of King Mauve was more of the flaring type, with the coloring nearer pure lilac, the outside of the petals tinged with violet, and a white center edged with blue and black anthers. There is a tissue-like quality to the petals of King Mauve which is rather attractive. Our only criticism is that some of the stems were crooked.

Zev was another very nice Tulip in this group, with large, cupped flowers of about the same color as King Mauve, the only difference being that they did not open so wide. A smaller flower of a slaty lilac coloring, the outside tinged with bronze, is Remembrance; its blooms were all of uniform height, held stiffly upright on strong stems. Other interesting varieties of this class are Mme. Butterfly, Insurpassable, Lady Chamberlain, and Margot.

There were two varieties among the Darwins which Wayside Gardens describe as "Chinese Lanterns," and this is a very good description. The growth is low; the flowers are small and open slowly. Annie Laurie is bronzy rose inside and pale straw-color on the outside of the petals, with a pale yellow base. The plants have very wide, light green foliage. Each bulb produced two flowers. Sarazen, somewhat similar but just a little taller in growth (probably 15 inches instead of the 12 inches of the preceding variety), is a light carmine-red inside with bronzy salmon outside and a pale yellow center. These are interesting things for bedding.

One of the best of the multiflowered type we have seen is Ambition, which came to us as a Darwin. The brilliant rose-colored flowers, with silvery edges, were rather small, of cupped shape, with white bases and violet anthers, and each stem carried two or three flowers. It would be a very desirable Tulip where quantity of bloom is an object.

Except for the whites, the lightest variety in our planting was Mermaid. Plants were very tall, with large, egg-shaped flowers of silvery white, flushed pink, the entire inside of the flower being pure silvery white with violet anthers for a contrast. Our principal objection to this was that the stems were inclined to be crooked.

There were quite a number of yellows, Gold Lake and Yellow Giant being two good tall varieties. The former was egg-shaped, deep golden yellow with touches of bronze on the outside, center of the cup being slightly marked with a bronze tint. Gold Lake was very tall, and each stem carried two or three flowers—not as bad as it sounds, as the second and third blooms were almost as large as the first. Quite an interesting Tulip! Yellow Giant had similar growth, with less of the bronze markings and the color a few shades lighter. The cup was marked with slate-colored penciling, and the flower had enormous violet anthers. These are probably seedlings from La Tulip Noire, or one of the so-called “blacks.”

Clearest of the yellows is Sunkist, which is a very deep and rich shade, the self-colored flowers being exactly the same shade inside as out; of fine form, medium height and growth. One of the richest colored Tulips we have ever seen.

Toplight is about the nicest primrose-colored Darwin we have seen. Flowers are slender, rather egg-shaped, with exceedingly long petals of pale primrose, both inside and out. Growth is hardly more than medium. Another interesting variety was Citronella, a little lighter than Toplight; it might be termed a pale lemon, and, interestingly enough, it carries a lemon scent. The bottom of the cup is slightly marked with greenish feathering. This is a very lovely Tulip, and if it only had straighter stems would be an outstanding variety.

Admired by everyone who saw it was The Peach, with large, egg-shaped flowers of clear pink over a white ground. The staining and markings of this were delightful; it really has a peach appearance. The white cup and brown anthers add to its beauty, and each flower in the group was exactly the same height and size, held upright on exceedingly straight, rigid stems.

We were not at all excited with the new white varieties, La Salle being the only one which made any appeal. Its slender, silvery white flowers, with white cup and brown anthers held on long, straight stems, made a nice appearance, but the old Zwanenburg, planted alongside of it, still appears to be the finest white.—R. M. H.

## *Mentha Requieni*

Farrer, in "The English Rock Garden," describes this tiny plant as follows:

"A microscopic jewel from Corsica, which you put in a cool damp place and then wholly forget about, but that you think the spot is covered with some minute and bright green lichen; till some day you tread that carpet, and are assaulted by the delicious pungency of mint. The plant needs no attention, for, if killed in a hard winter by chance, it will assuredly have sown itself. The little violet mint flowers appear in August, and the whole carpet has the air of some exceedingly wee Mazus, foreshadowing the same needs and treatment."

Plant it anywhere it can get plenty of moisture and it will spread rapidly, making the most delightful mat of green imaginable. The tiny plants are only a fraction of an inch high, and, as Farrer says, look more like a lichen than a perennial herb.

It fits in many places—between stones of a walk, on the steps, a moist place in the rockery, or under a shade tree—and every time you step on it that delightful scent comes up to greet your nostrils.

At Breeze Hill we have several patches in low places in the rock-garden, and like it so well that next year it will be spread around where we can walk on it oftener.—R. M. H.



## *Some Rock-Garden Veronicas*

*Veronica gentianoides* is a very lovely little flower with 4-inch spikes of bloom on 6-inch stems. The quarter-inch flowers are a lovely shade of grayish blue, penciled with deep violet-blue lines, each flower enlivened with three white filaments tipped with gray anthers extending over a quarter-inch in front of the flower. Plants form close little mats with narrow, pale green foliage that extends up the flower-stems to where the spikes begin. This is a very attractive border or rock-garden plant, blooming in Harrisburg the latter part of April.

Another beautiful *Veronica* is *Armena*, sometimes catalogued as *Amœna*. It is a trailing variety with fine, almost hair-like leaflets growing in a little tuft, more like one of the small sedums than a *Veronica*. The flowers are one-quarter inch in diameter, deep blue with white centers with white filaments and anthers. The plants form a close mat of this attractive foliage almost a foot in diameter, and when in bloom the lovely blue flowers practically hide the plant. It blooms in Harrisburg the latter part of April and gives a little more bloom in the fall.

*Veronica pectinata rosea* is distinctly different—a creeping plant with close, woolly foliage of pale grayish green. The flowers, which are in tight clusters, are deep rosy lavender with darker penciling and white centers. Each of the four petals is edged with white, and the tiny anthers are lavender. A different and very attractive flower which spreads rapidly and makes an excellent ground-cover.

*Veronica filiformis* is another creeping *Veronica* with round, pale green leaves which form a very close mat. The tiny quarter-inch flowers are held about 1½ inches above the foliage and are part white and part lavender-blue, the blue section deeply penciled with darker markings, one white petal being without any markings and the other two being penciled half their length. It makes a very attractive cover, and in early April the flowers practically hide the foliage.—R. M. H.



*Mrs. Harold Irving Pratt, an outstanding Darwin*